

article **A** being transferred onto the pallet. As shown in **FIG. 3**, each of the extension forks **30** can terminate in a beveled tip **31**. In addition,

At page 17, please replace the first paragraph (numbered paragraph 50) with the following:

As described above, the free ends of the extension forks **30** are supported by an idler roller assembly **33**. In the preferred embodiment, a corresponding number of idler rollers **56** are mounted on an idler shaft **57**. The idler shaft **57** is rotatably supported by the frame **11** in a known manner, such as by bushings or bearings mounted within the frame and supporting the opposite ends of the shaft **57**.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 3 with the following amended claim 3:

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of said number of elongated beams includes an upper surface defining said stationary transfer surface.

~~Please replace claim 5 with the following amended claim 5:~~

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein each of said number of elongated beams includes an upper surface defining said stationary transfer surface.

~~Please replace claim 6 with the following amended claim 6:~~

6. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein each of ⁽¹¹²¹²⁾ said second plurality of elongated forks) includes an upper surface configured to support the article as it is pushed by said pusher mechanism thereacross.

~~Please replace claim 7 with the following amended claim 7:~~

sub B37 7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said upper surface of each of ⁽¹¹²¹²⁾ said second plurality of elongated forks) is situated at or below said stationary transfer surface.

~~Please replace claim 8 with the following amended claim 8:~~

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said extension fork assembly includes means for supporting a free end of each of said number of elongated forks, and said drive mechanism is connected to each of said number of forks at an opposite end thereof.

Please add the following as new claims 16-18:

16. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said upper surface of said number of elongated beams is curved.

701 17. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said upper surface of said number of elongated beams is curved.

18. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said means for supporting includes a roller assembly.